

26. (Original) A device as claimed in claim 24, wherein the means for making a relative motion in the transverse direction between the string that is to be welded and the welding equipment comprises displaceable welding equipment.

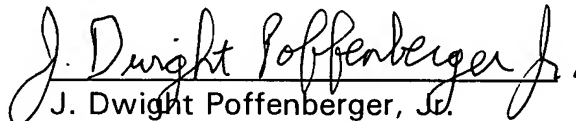
REMARKS

Claims 4-9, 13-14, 16 and 22 have been amended by this amendment. Early and favorable examination is respectfully requested at this time.

Applicant does not believe that any fees are due in connection with this submission. However, if such petition is due or any fees are necessary, the Commissioner may consider this to be a request for such and charge any necessary fees to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 23-3000.

Respectfully submitted,

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